

# TARGETED ENERGY INCENTIVES TO ACHIEVE A NATIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, on March 9, 2005, President Bush went to Columbus, OH for one of his many town hall meetings. Besides attempting to sell his Social Security plan, he also spoke about the need for a national energy policy. Not surprisingly, he raised the specter of high gas prices, increasing natural gas rates, and electricity blackouts as a justification to pass his energy plan. However, this issue needs more than just rhetoric. It needs real solutions.

The American people need look no further than the President's budget request to question that commitment to a serious energy policy. The President has cut funding for a number of important energy programs in his budget. For example, he has said that he supports clean coal technologies. He started professing his support on the campaign trail in October 2000, and he promised to commit \$2 billion over 10 years for the Clean Coal Technology demonstration program. This is the very program that I started back in 1985. Yet, each of his five budgets has failed to meet that goal. This year, he only requested \$50 million, instead of the promised \$200 million. In effect, he has promised those in the coal fields one dollar but has only anted up two bits. Furthermore, he touts the need for the FutureGen project but cannot say where the funding for this facility is going to come from down the road. His only option right now is to raid other clean coal programs, and I will not stand by and let him rob Peter to pay Paul.

The White House has proposed and the Majority has adopted just \$4.56 billion in energy tax incentives over five years in this Fiscal Year 2006 budget. How much did the President include for clean coal tax incentives in this year's budget request, or in previous years' budget requests? Nothing! We cannot demonstrate and deploy the next generation of clean coal technologies based on what this administration is actually willing to put on the table. The administration's co-called support for the clean coal technology programs is indicative of its support for so many important energy programs. This administration's much narrower package of energy tax incentives is inadequate to achieve our national energy policy goals.

I have long believed that the U.S. needs a comprehensive and balanced national energy policy. The looming concerns of electricity blackouts, energy prices, and increased dependence on foreign energy sources represent ominous clouds on the horizon. Sadly, our energy problems, like so many other challenges, are being addressed with ever shrinking funds and band-aid solutions. The pattern has been repeated over and over again. The Bush administration generates new initiatives, fails to fully fund them, and then

simultaneously cuts other important programs. At the same time, we have witnessed attempts to put a moratorium on federal gas taxes, to tap the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and to make secretive deals with Saudi Arabia to produce more oil. We have endeavored to treat the symptoms, rather than the core problem, for far too long. This President may talk a good game, but how are we going to fix our energy ills with this President's prescription?

The United States needs affordable, reliable, and clean energy resources and technologies to support a growing economy and a healthy environment. We need a comprehensive, balanced, and diversified national energy policy that will promote a strong energy efficiency program and bolster our Nation's coal, natural gas, oil, renewable, nuclear, and other clean domestic energy technologies. A strong energy policy must help to maintain and upgrade these our critical energy infrastructure and support, retain, and create energy-related manufacturing and other service jobs that are an underpinning of our economy. A bipartisan energy strategy should encourage increased use of the most advanced energy supply and energy efficiency technologies and must support increased investments in an array of energy research and development programs.

Our Nation needs to begin defining alternative pathways and new approaches that go beyond the extremist debates and simplistic solutions that define our very demanding energy security and environmental challenges. It is time to move along that path. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to support an appropriate, equitable, and diversified mixture of at least \$15.5 billion in targeted energy tax incentives over the next ten years, and I urge the Finance Committee to find offsets so that this can be done in a fiscally sound way.

In the 108th Congress, the Senate supported a similar level for energy incentives. The Senate's Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Resolution, the last budget that Congress passed, provided for \$15.5 billion in energy tax incentives over ten years. In 2003, the Senate Finance Committee adopted and the Senate passed a balanced and bipartisan package of energy tax incentives in the amount of \$19.8 billion over ten years as a part of the Senate Energy Policy Act of 2003, part of which was offset. I supported that energy tax package as it provided an array of targeted energy incentives, including approximately \$2 billion to deploy advanced clean coal technologies.

Such an energy tax incentives package would help strengthen the economy, enhance our Nation's energy resources, promote an array of advanced energy technologies, increase jobs, and provide for a healthy environment. Is there a Member in this Chamber who is opposed to that? If there are going to be tax cuts in this budget, then we must increase funding for a range of energy tax incentives. Supporting at

least \$15.5 billion in energy tax incentives will send a strong message that these incentives are necessary to develop a national energy policy, and I urge my colleagues to stand with me in this request. Unless we can increase the pie for all of these energy technology approaches, there will not be enough to achieve our energy goals in any serious way.

## HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT MELVIN L. BLAZER

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to honor a brave Oklahoma soldier who gave the last full measure to protect our freedom. Staff Sergeant Melvin Blazer of the United States Marine Corps embodied the spirit of service and the values that make this country what it is.

Sergeant Blazer was a great Marine. He joined soon after graduating from Moore High School in 1984. As he rose through the ranks, he developed a reputation of dependability. He was serving as a platoon leader with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force when his unit was deployed to Iraq.

Sergeant Blazer was no stranger to the hazards of duty. He survived an improvised explosive device attack that struck his convoy last November and was awarded a Purple Heart.

Sergeant Blazer was also a family man. He married his wife, Dana, in 1989 and they had two children, Alyssa and Erik. As his wife recalls, "To know my husband was to love my husband. Everybody loved him and admired him and respected him and held him in such high regard. He was a hero in his everyday life."

Sergeant Blazer was also a Christian. He told relatives he was excited to see Iraq because the Bible talks about it and was proud to help and serve an oppressed people.

On December 12, 2004, Sergeant Blazer was killed by enemy small arms fire in the city of Fallujah. He was 38 years old. He loved God, devoted himself to his family and gave the highest sacrifice to his country. He leaves behind many who know what a true hero he is. As a son of Oklahoma and a fine example of what this country stands for, Staff Sergeant Blazer deserves our honor and remembrance.

LANCE CORPORAL JORDAN D. WINKLER

Mr. President, I wish to honor one of Oklahoma's fallen sons, Marine LCpl Jordan Winkler. From an early age he felt called to defend our country and the freedom it stands for. For his life of service and his final sacrifice, we are eternally indebted to him.

Corporal Winkler admired the military even before he was old enough to join. His parents still have a letter from the Marine Corps that he received when he was fifteen. While in Union High School in Tulsa, he was active in sports and respected by his peers.